

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration, reexamination, and allowance of the present patent application are respectfully requested in view of the following remarks. Applicant has slightly revised the specification to better conform to current U.S. practice, and the Title to reflect the election below.

Election

Applicant elects without traverse Group I, Claims 1-8; non-elected Claims 9-15 have been cancelled.

Information Disclosure Statement (“IDS”)

Applicant acknowledges receipt with the Office Action of a partially-examiner-initialed form PTO-1449, the original of which was filed by Applicant as part of an IDS on 22 December 2004. Applicant notes that one of the documents listed on the 1449, a Search Report from a corresponding German patent application, was stricken through and the handwritten notation “(not in file)” made next to it.

Applicant’s undersigned representative has reviewed the Image File Wrapper (“IFW”) for this application, and has confirmed that the German Search Report is in the IFW; it is the first three pages of the sixteen (16) page document entitled “Foreign Reference” dated December 22, 2004, the remaining thirteen pages of which are EP 0985810 A1. Applicant also notes that, on page 1 of the German Search Report, the English language letter “Y” appears adjacent to each of the five documents cited therein.

Applicant respectfully submits that the IDS filed 22 December 2004 fully complied with 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.97, 1.98, and therefore respectfully requests consideration of the German Search Report and return to Applicant of a fully-examiner-initialed 1449.

Conclusion

Applicant respectfully submits that the present patent application is in condition for

allowance. An early indication of the allowability of this patent application is therefore respectfully solicited.

If Mr. Basichas believes that a telephone conference with the undersigned would expedite passage of this patent application to issue, he is invited to call on the number below.

It is not believed that extensions of time are required, beyond those that may otherwise be provided for in accompanying documents. If, however, additional extensions of time are necessary to prevent abandonment of this application, then such extensions of time are hereby petitioned under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a), and the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge fees necessitated by this paper, and to credit all refunds and overpayments, to our Deposit Account 50-2821.

Respectfully submitted,

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¹ 37 C.F.R. § 1.4(d)3)